

Claims

1. An apparatus for processing a request for execution of one of a plurality of actions,
each action having a specific semantic for input arguments to be provided to said
action, said request for execution having a plurality of parameters, a first parameter of
5 said plurality of parameters designating an action within said plurality of actions and
a second parameter of said plurality of parameters for referencing a plurality of data
elements arranged according to the specific semantic for input arguments to be
provided to said action, said apparatus comprising:
an interface for receiving said request for execution; and
10 an agent for selecting said designated action, executing said selected action and
providing as input arguments to said action said plurality of data elements.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, a third parameter of said plurality of parameters for
referencing additional data elements for receiving a return value generated by said
action, said agent further for receiving into said additional data elements referenced
15 from said third parameter a return value generated by said action.
3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said second parameter and said third parameter are
the same parameter.
4. The apparatus of claim 1 further having access control and validation constraints to
be validated before execution of said selected action, and said agent further for
20 validating said request for execution using said access control and validation
constraints before executing said selected action.
5. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a manager for creating, modifying and
deleting an action in said plurality of actions.
6. The apparatus of any of claims 1 to 5 wherein each of said plurality of actions is a
25 functional process.

7. A method for processing a request for execution of one of a plurality of actions, each action having a specific semantic for input arguments to be provided, said request for execution having a plurality of parameters, a first parameter of said plurality of parameters designating an action within said plurality of actions and a second
5 parameter of said plurality of parameters for referencing a plurality of data elements arranged according to the specific semantic for input arguments to be provided to said action, comprising steps for:
- receiving said request for execution;
selecting said designated action from said plurality of actions;
10 executing said selected action; and
providing as said input arguments to said selected action said plurality of data elements.
8. The method of claim 7, a third parameter of said plurality of parameters for referencing additional data elements for receiving a return value generated by said
15 action, further comprising a step for receiving into said additional data elements referenced from said third parameter a return value generated by said action.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein said second parameter and said third parameter are the same parameter.
10. The method of claim 7 further having access control and validation constraints to be
20 validated before execution of said selected action, and further comprising a step for validating said request for execution using said access control and validation constraints before executing said selected action.
11. The method of any of claims 7 to 10 wherein each of said plurality of actions is a functional process.

12. A computer program product for processing a request for execution of one of a plurality of actions, each action having a specific semantic for input arguments to be provided, said request for execution having a plurality of parameters, a first parameter of said plurality of parameters designating an action within said plurality of actions
5 and a second parameter of said plurality of parameters for referencing a plurality of data elements arranged according to the specific semantic for input arguments to be provided to said action, the computer program product comprising computer executable program code devices for:
- receiving said request for execution;
 - 10 selecting said designated action from said plurality of actions;
 - executing said selected action; and
 - providing as said input arguments to said selected action said plurality of data elements.
13. The computer program product of claim 12, a third parameter of said plurality of
15 parameters for referencing additional data elements for receiving a return value generated by said action, the computer program product further comprising computer executable program code devices for receiving into said additional data elements referenced from said third parameter a return value generated by said action.
14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein said second parameter and said
20 third parameter are the same parameter.
15. The computer program product of claim 12, further having access control and validation constraints to be validated before execution of said selected action, and the computer program product further comprising computer executable program code
25 devices for validating said request for execution using said access control and validation constraints before executing said action.
16. The computer program product of any of claims 12 to 15, wherein each of said plurality of actions is a functional process.